

## **Senate Bill No. 532**

### **CHAPTER 238**

An act to amend Sections 52240 and 52920 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

[Approved by Governor September 6, 2011. Filed with  
Secretary of State September 6, 2011.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 532, Hernandez. Pupil instruction: high school curriculum: advanced placement courses: International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.

(1) Existing law contains legislative findings and declarations stating that advanced placement courses, among other things, help to improve the overall curriculum at schools where they are provided and provide a cost-effective means for high school pupils to obtain college-level coursework experience.

This bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to annually update the information on advanced placement available on the Internet Web site of the State Department of Education to include current information on the various means available to school districts to offer or access advanced placement courses, including online courses, and to annually communicate with high schools that offer advanced placement courses in fewer than 5 subjects and inform them of the various options for making advanced placement courses and other rigorous courses available to pupils who may benefit from them.

(2) Existing law authorizes a system of incentives to encourage high schools to operate International Baccalaureate Diploma Programs, and to encourage pupils in these schools to enroll in, attempt, and pass the International Baccalaureate course of study and examinations that lead to the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

This bill would require the Superintendent to annually update information on the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program available on the department's Internet Web site and to provide support to high schools that offer International Baccalaureate courses, as specified. The bill would encourage the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges, the Academic Senate of the California State University, and the Academic Senate of the University of California to continue their efforts to adopt consistent systemwide guidelines for the acceptance and granting of credit for International Baccalaureate Diploma Program courses taken by students while they are in high school.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 52240 of the Education Code is amended to read: 52240. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the following:

(1) Advanced placement courses, for which school credit is awarded, provide rigorous academic coursework opportunities for high school pupils and help to improve the overall curriculum at schools where those courses are provided.

(2) The successful completion of advanced placement courses and the subsequent advanced placement examinations, which are conducted by the College Entrance Examination Board and for which college credit is awarded, provide a cost-effective means for high school pupils to obtain college-level coursework experience.

(3) To the extent that economically disadvantaged pupils are provided financial assistance to take advanced placement examinations, they will be provided with successful college-level experience and be encouraged to pursue postsecondary education opportunities.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature, therefore, that certain state funding that currently is provided to school districts be made available to provide financial assistance to economically disadvantaged pupils for the payment of advanced placement examination fees. It is further the intent of the Legislature that a competitive grant program also be established for the purpose of awarding grants to economically disadvantaged pupils to cover the costs of advanced placement examination fees, thereby creating a second source of financial assistance for economically disadvantaged pupils taking advanced placement examinations.

(c) The Superintendent shall annually update the information on advanced placement available on the department's Internet Web site to include current information on the various means available to school districts to offer or access advanced placement courses, including online courses. The Superintendent shall annually communicate with high schools that offer advanced placement courses in fewer than five subjects, and inform them of the various options for making advanced placement courses and other rigorous courses available to pupils who may benefit from them.

SEC. 2. Section 52920 of the Education Code is amended to read:

52920. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program is a comprehensive and rigorous two-year curriculum, leading to examinations for high school pupils. Its objectives are to provide pupils with a balanced education, to facilitate geographic and cultural mobility, and to promote international understanding through a shared academic experience. Successful International Baccalaureate Diploma candidates pursue a specific, intensive, balanced liberal arts course of study and must pass rigorous examinations in seven curricula areas. Successful International Baccalaureate Diploma candidates are typically granted substantial advanced placement credit at the finest colleges and universities in the nation. The academic content and rigor of the instruction and examinations in International Baccalaureate

Diploma Programs is governed and continuously monitored by the International Baccalaureate Organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to establish a system of appropriate incentives to encourage high schools to offer the intensive, rigorous course of instruction leading to International Baccalaureate Diplomas and to encourage pupils in these schools to enroll in, attempt, and pass the rigorous International Baccalaureate Diploma course of study and the rigorous examinations leading to the International Baccalaureate Diploma.

(c) The Superintendent shall annually update information on the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program available on the department's Internet Web site. The Superintendent also shall provide support to high schools that offer International Baccalaureate (IB) courses to facilitate communication with the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges, the Academic Senate of the California State University, and the Academic Senate of the University of California about the rigor of those courses and to ensure that college credit is given to pupils who participate so that they benefit from successful efforts in IB programs.

SEC. 3. The Legislature encourages the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges, the Academic Senate of the California State University, and the Academic Senate of the University of California to continue their efforts to adopt consistent systemwide guidelines for the acceptance and granting of credit for International Baccalaureate Diploma Program courses taken by students while they are in high school.